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UAA Mat-Su Home of the Mat-Su College Arctic Dragons

# Mat-Su Monitor

FEBRUARY 2020 VOLUME 43 NUMBER 4

## 2020 High School Art Portfolio Competition

Alaska high school seniors have a chance to win scholarships to Mat-Su College through the 2020 High School Art Portfolio Competition.

Look for entry forms around campus or contact us at 907-745-9746 to have one sent to you.

Best of luck to all of our participants!

**Portfolio drop off**: April 16 - 18
**Winners Announced**: April 19
**Art Show**: April 19 - 30

## Volunteers save thousands of books from total destruction

***By Gig Grant***

*Editor's note: This article is about the ongoing Bright Lights Book Project happening at Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS). Volunteers are working to rescue reusable books that make their way into the recycling bin.*

This is not one of your normal book stores. It didn't take long to see that the volunteers are true book lovers. There was a lot of activity. People were carrying boxes in both directions at the same time. These volunteers are work tirelessly to find good homes for thousands of books that are in "like new" condition, hopefully before they are shredded.

**Sharon Aubrey and Bill Schmidtkunz work diligently at Valley Community for Recycling Solutions to repurpose recycled books.**

*See* **BOOKS** *page 7*

## Upcoming events:

**February** 17: Elizabeth Peratrovich Day events.

**February** 18: Resume Writing Workshop. 12:00-1:00 PM. FSM 201.

**February** 19: Zumba session (Journey Event). 12:00-1:00 PM. Glenn Massay Theater lobby.

**February** 19: Resume Writing Workshop. 2:30-3:30 PM. FSM 201.

**February** 20: Good Nutrition V. Dieting (Journey event). 4:00-5:15 PM. FSM 204.

**February** 26: Resume Writing Workshop. 12:00-1:00 PM. FSM 201.

**February** 26: Zumba session (Journey Event). 12:00-1:00 PM. Glenn Massay Theater lobby.

**February** 27: Resume Writing Workshop. 2:30-3:30 PM. FSM 201.

**February** 29: Math Cram Jam. 10:30 AM-2:00 PM. SNOD.

**March** 2: Climate Change is Here: What can you do? (Journey event). 4:00-5:30 PM. FSM 204.

**March** 04: Zumba session (Journey Event). 12:00-1:00 PM. Glenn Massay Theater lobby.

**March** 6: Resume and Cover Letter Open Writing Lab. 9 AM-12 PM. FSM 104.

**March** 11: Mat-Su Employer Expo 2020. 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. All campus.

**March** 20: NCBI Social Inclusion & Equity Workshop. 1:00-5:00 PM, FSM 206.

## Help the Math Club help homeless teens!

For the sixth consecutive year the math department and math club are leading a donation drive for My House, a local charity that helps homeless teens get back on their feet. Visit the donation barrel near the FSM entrance and donate any of the following:

**New items**

- Cup of Noodles
- Apple Sauce packs
- Protein granola bars
- 100% juice boxes
- Packs of nuts and trail mix
- Fruit leather
- Fruit cups
- Chap stick
- Cough drops
- Shaving cream
- Gas cards or hair cut gift cards (please give these to student services)
- Underwear

**Gently used items**

- Clean shoes
- Men's clothing
- Professional clothing for men or women
- Home decor
- XS and XL clothing

Thank you!

hello GRADUATE,
this workshop is for YOU!
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Résumé Writing Workshop
Creating your first résumé?
Attending a Job Fair?
Mat-Su Job Center presents ...
2020 Mat-Su Employer Expo!
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
February 18th and 26th
12 pm - 1 pm
February 19th and 27th
2:30 pm- 3:30 pm
LOCATION:
Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage
FSM 201
UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual.

## Club meeting times:

Student clubs are always open to new members, so don't be shy!

**Alaska Native Cultures Club:** Monday, 10:30 AM in FSM 201.

**All Who Code :** TBA

**Arroba Spanish Club:** 12:15-12:45 FSM 105. 2/20, 3/26, 4/14.

**Math Club:** Wednesdays, 3:30 PM in SNOD 124.

**LGBT+ Club:** Monday, 12:00 PM in Library 214.

**Mat-Su Monitor:** Wednesday, 3:15 in Library 214.

**Student Government Council:** Wednesday, 11:50 in Library 214.

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## Discovering Atomic Shrimp

***By Shane O'Quinn***

YouTube is a vast place. There are over 2 billion users worldwide. Every day, people collectively watch 1 billion hours of YouTube content. Naturally, since there are so many people watching on the platform, there will be content creators that will fill the niche that these viewers are looking for; or show them something they weren't seeking, but ended up enjoying anyway. I personally am subscribed to over 300 different channels. They are for comic relief, information, firearms, politics, cultural customs, traveling, etc. That is the beauty of YouTube. You can find people from all walks of life with perspectives on the world that may differ from your own. It serves as the ultimate way to exchange information about what it's like to be in certain places and do certain things. It facilitates communication on an unprecedented level since before the internet.

I happen to stumble across a lot of channels by accident. Sometimes people recommend them, or sometimes their videos get recommended to me. The latter does not always function so well on YouTube's part. YouTube, stop sending me videos about the Paul brothers, I don't care who they are boxing this week. However,

*See* **YOUTUBE** *page 7*

Mat-Su Monitor
February 2020

# Now Hiring

*By Adelina Rodríguez*

The Mat-Su Job Center is hosting their annual ***Employer Expo***, also known as a job or career fair, on March 11, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Mat-Su College (MSC). The event is designed to connect local and statewide employers with the talented employment pool of students from Mat-Su College and throughout the valley.

**Who should attend?** There is a misconception that only students who are about to graduate should attend. All students despite their educational level can benefit and learn about employment opportunities, internships and begin networking with employers in their field of interest. Moreover, students can learn about the education and desired skills employers are looking for, to adequately prepare and be successful. Follow the guidelines below and utilize your free resources on campus, including the campus library and your Career Development Office.

**Create your Résumé**

Before the event, create or update your résumé and have your MSC Career Development Advisor proofread and check for errors. Have copies of your résumé available with an electronic version to print additional pages if necessary. Mat-Su College will offer multiple, résumé-writing workshops in February and an Open Writing Lab to assist students in preparing for this event. Contact the Career Development Office at 907-746-9319 to learn available dates and times.

**Dress Professionally**

It is important to dress professionally for a job fair, as it is with an interview. This is an opportunity to make a good first impression, so make sure everything fits properly (nothing tight or revealing); clothing is wrinkle free and limited jewelry. Wear comfortable dressy shoes as you might be on your feet for several hours.

**Prepare your Introduction**

Prepare and practice your introduction, which includes your full name, career goals, strengths and relevant experiences. Approach the recruiter with confidence, a firm handshake, and smile. If you are typically shy or easily get nervous, schedule an appointment with the MSC Career Development Advisor to practice and get comfortable.

**Questions for employers**

Be prepared with some thoughtful questions for the employers. Again, this is a learning and networking opportunity. The more time you spend with an employer is a chance to leave an impression and any future employment contacts, when you are ready to apply. If you need assistance in preparing some questions, schedule an appointment with you Career Development office.

Maximize your employment opportunities by attending the Mat-Su Job Center ***Employer Expo***. Also, be sure to take advantage of the free resources provided by your Career Development Office.

Handshake
Mat-Su College/ UAA students and Alumni can access thousands of internships and jobs,discover career and networking events and more, all through Handshake.
alaska.joinhandshake.com
For more more information contact:
Mat-Su College Student Services
907.45.9746
UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual.

## A Year of Self-Care

*By Anonymous*

I can't tell you how many New Year's resolutions I've made, then broke. Most resolutions had me clutching candy in one hand and salad in the other, but last year's resolution changed my life. I wanted to break beyond the norm. I tried to improve myself and how I thought; this was not an easy task. Growing up with mental illness wired my brain to think differently. I am the product of untreated depression and anxiety since my early adolescence. I decided 2019 was my year, a year of new beginnings, and addressing my toxic behavior. I no longer wanted to be eyes glued to my phone and riddled with depression so much so that I couldn't even get out of bed. Depression is a disease; mental illness is a disease. My anxiety was killing me. I'm writing this article in real-time because the reality is, almost everyone around me in the Mat-Su valley has mental illness in one way or another. My decision to better myself led to four different types of psych meds and two therapists, but hey, I'm still here today. I'm writing to the person reading this article right now, yes, that means you, reader. That means you you can go out and get the help you need to be here tomorrow.

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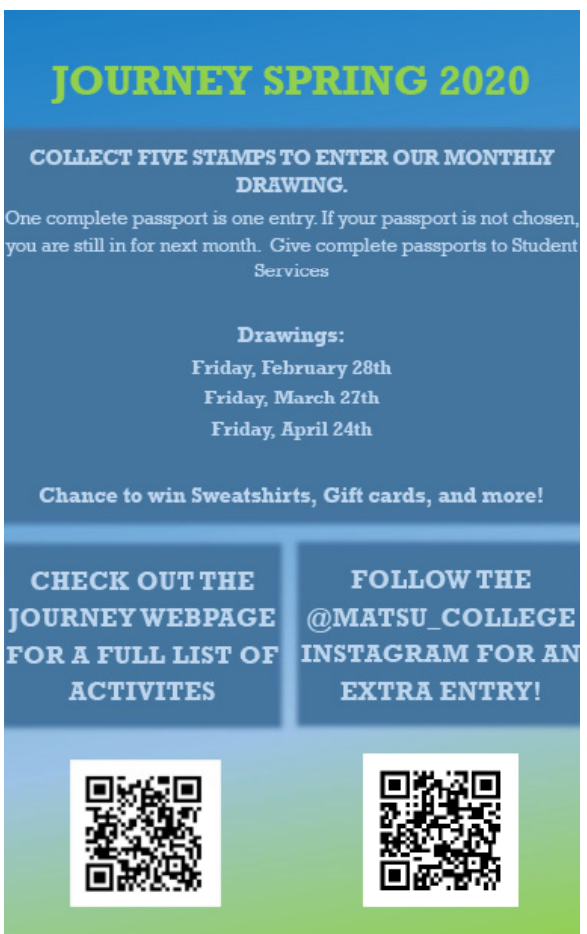
The *Mat-Su Monitor* is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The *Monitor* aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The *Monitor* seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the *Monitor*'s weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the *Monitor* can be found at *https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml.*

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the *Monitor* contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the *Monitor* article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.


JOURNEY SPRING 2020
COLLECT FIVE STAMPS TO ENTER OUR MONTHLY DRAWING.
One complete passport is one entry. If your passport is not chosen, you are still in for next month. Give complete passports to Student Services
Drawings:
Friday, February 28th
Friday, March 27th
Friday, April 24th
Chance to win Sweatshirts, Gift cards, and more!
CHECK OUT THE JOURNEY WEBPAGE FOR A FULL LIST OF ACTIVITES
FOLLOW THE @MATSU_COLLEGE INSTAGRAM FOR AN EXTRA ENTRY!

## Hey guys! It's me again!

Dragons,

On behalf of the Student Government Council here at Mat-Su, welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing holiday season and are excited to get back to doing homework! Haha! If you are a new student, welcome home! My Name is Angeli Kristovich and I am currently your Student Government President. I am so glad you chose Mat-Su college; I hope you will love and enjoy this campus as much as I do.

Last semester was the first half of my term and, oh my goodness, I learned so much. Student Government has given me a lot of great, and often hilarious memories of trying to figure out what exactly I should be doing as the President. Whether it was hosting campus events, putting on a stellar Halloween dance, collaborating with clubs, or working alongside the Journey and Student Services teams, all of it was super exciting! As I continue to learn more and move forward, I wanted to remind you all that if you have any suggestions of what you would like to see happen on campus, to please email me or stop by my office (JKB114). So far, students have said that they want a student recreation room, a mid-term snack week, and a finals snack week/pizza day – Student Government is going to work on making this happen.

In case you didn't know, or you forgot, the student government meetings are held upstairs in the library on Wednesdays at noon. Please feel free to come check out a meeting and see if you like it. Remember, you do not need to join SG to attend meetings. If you don't like it, don't trip-it's all good! College is a time to try new things, meet new people, and become the person you truly want to be academically and personally. So, put yourself out there! You can also have a really good time by going to the tutor, too! I can't think of a better way to meet a friend than when you are both confused over math ... good times.

Anyways, all I'm trying to say is don't be too shy to share your ideas about what you want to see happen on campus. It is up to us to create the atmosphere and memories that we will have for the rest of our lives. We shouldn't let this time pass without giving it our all to create a history that we can look back on and laugh about, be proud of, and realize now that we are spending our time with the coolest people ever, and at the greatest college campus ever! Have a great semester and I hope the best for you all.

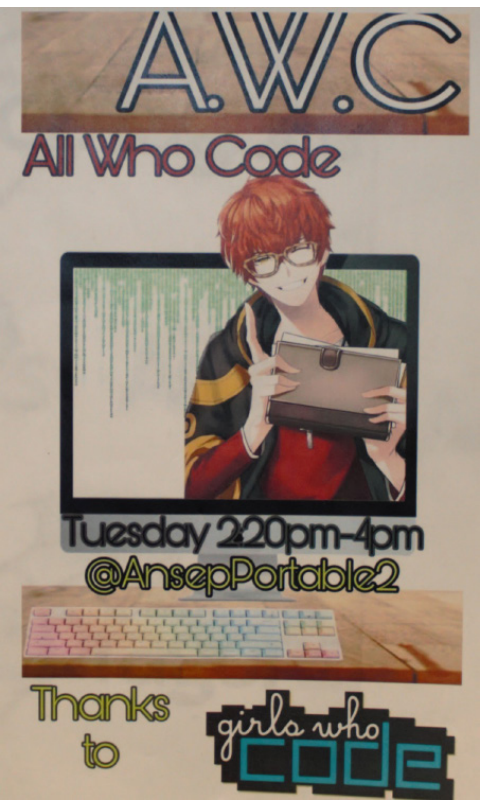
Warmly,

Angeli Kristovich
Mat-Su College Student Government President
amkristovich@alaska.edu

MSC SGC

Get involved with your
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Meetings Wednesday
11:50 - 12:50 OLB 214

**Scan the QR code for info on the Alaska Native Cultures Club**



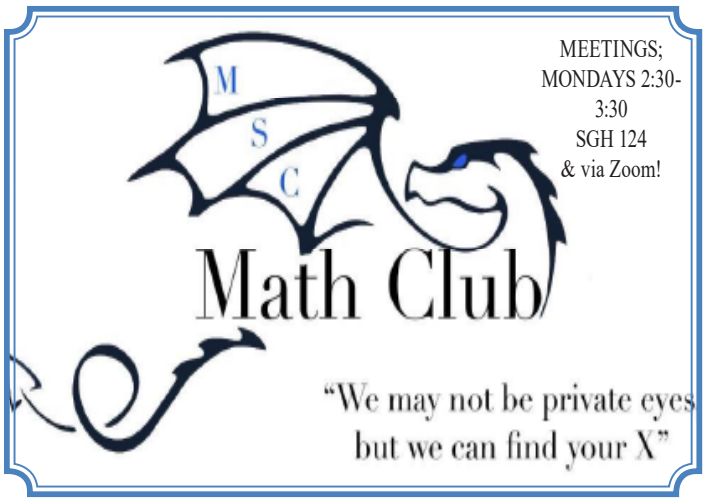
**LGBT+ Club**

**Mondays 12 - 1 in Library 214**

## Have a coffee on us!

Monday morning coffee can be found in the Atrium from 9-12am.

Courtesy of your Student Government




Arroba Sp@nish Club
by Claudia Jones

| | |
|---|---|
| **The main goal of Arroba is to provide a fun opportunity for students to practice the Spanish language, as well as the cultures of Spanish speaking countries around the world.** | **Participants:** All UAA students<br>**Dates: 2/20, 3/26, 4/14**<br>**Location:** FSM 105<br>**Times:** 12:15 -12:45pm<br>**Criteria of Membership:** Be registered for or have taken Spanish 101 |
| **Name of the club:** Arroba "Spanish Club" | |

Monitor

MEETING TIMES
Wednesdays
3:15- 4:15 OLB 214
*(Upstairs in the Library)*

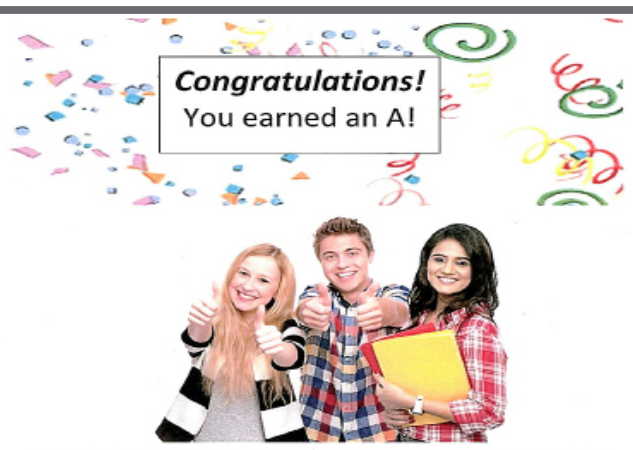
Looking For
- Photographers
- Writers
- Reporters
- Marketing Reps
- Cartoonists
- Artists

***Now taking submissions***

## LOOKING FOR BACK ISSUES?

**https://archive.org/details/@matsu_monitor**

**Over 100 searchable back issues from 1978 to now, with more added regularly!**




Enter your "A" work in the

**2020 Student Showcase**

to be eligible to win great prizes!
Applications will be accepted during spring semester 2020. Watch for the application deadline date coming in January.

For more information contact: mrsagal@alaska.edu

Photo by Brooke Corpus

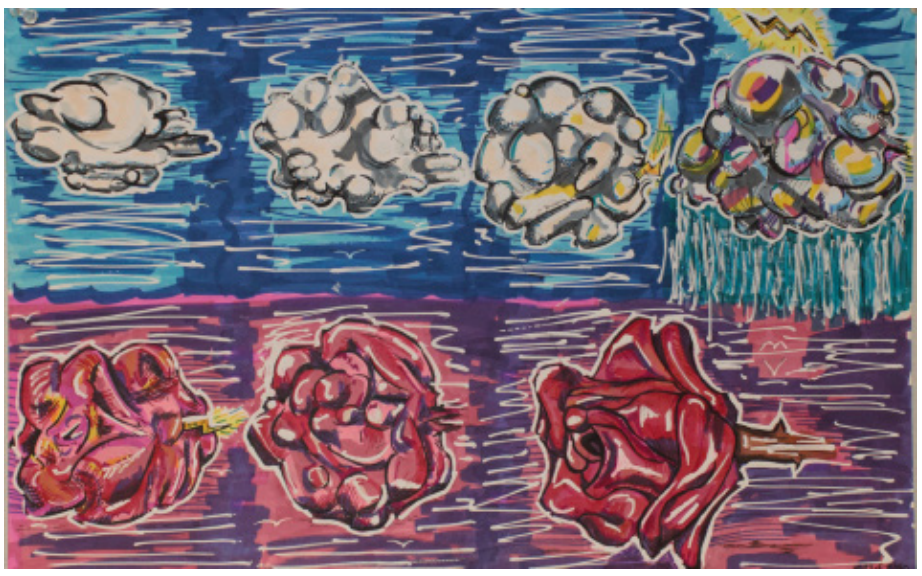
WHAT'S NEXT?
CONSIDER A CAREER AT MEA

- Great job opportunities and employee benefits
- Internships and full-time positions available

MEA is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

For job openings and available internships visit:
www.mea.coop

MEA
MATANUSKA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION



# FROM THE STUDIO

# Mat-Su College
## University of Alaska Anchorage

# Congratulations to our recent Chancellor's and Dean's List students!

*These students have been named to the Dean's List or Chancellor's list in Spring or Fall 2019 (or both). Students on the Dean's list earned a GPA of 3.50 while taking 12 or more credits. Students on the Chancellor's list earned a GPA of 4.0 while taking 12 or more credits.*

## CHANCELLOR'S LIST

Brittany Agate
Lori Aguero
Vallary Ann Aguilar Mongar
Jeremy Allen
Rebekkah Alley
Kiley Anderson
Evelyn Beck
Nicholas Beckage
Robert Becker
Tyler Belk
Jessie Best
Zoey Bigelow
Madeline Blake
Sarah Bodolosky
Ekaterina Bondarenko
Kira Bradford
Kyle Brothers
Gabrielle Cain
Elizabeth Caldwell
Jose Camacho Jr.
Feona Carney
Kendra Carrillo Vazquez
Noelle Chynoweth
Hannah Cole
Jesse Coleman
Ecem Collins
Sabrina Coombs
Marilouanne Corpus
Kiela Cott
Johnathon Dail
Anna Daniels
Heather Deadmond
Alyna Deishl
Steven Dolinsek
Erika Raissa Dolinsek
Edward Eagerton
Caryn Ehresman
Emily Escapule
Nicole Evans
Emily Fagnant
Kelly Foshee
Charles Foster
Holly Garcia
Ashley Gibbs
Maia Gimm
Timothy Gonyea
Anya Green
John Gregory
John Heafer
Rose Hendrickson
Jack Henson
Joshua Hofmeister
Hailey Holland
Sierra Houlton
Tracia Howell-West
John Hubbard
Nikki Hunter
Edward Huseman
Katie Jackson
Ruthmarie Jacob Hardage
Jacklyn Jaronik
Anastasia Jasper
Kadi Judd
Barbara Kahula
Kassidy Kaiser
Libieann Keller
Madeline Kelly
Alexis Kerst
Merrily Kincaid
Zackery Kirsch
Claire Kudyba
Breanna Larimer
Alexander Litvinchuk
Julia Litvinchuk
John Losier
Vanessa Madruga
Kaylee Mahler
Emily Manthey
Katherine Massong
Arianne Mae Maza
Conner McIntire
Elizabeth Miller
Carlin Mongeau
Kendra Mons-Verley
Abner Montanez Jr.
Axyle Nardini
Robert Nash
Katherine Nelson
Cassidi O'Brien
Ryan OMara
Samuel Ouellette
Anna Panfil
Carrie Parmenter
Susan Paul
Jordan Peace
Daniel Pempel
Nicholas Pierson
Veronica Podunovich
Shannon Powers
Caitlin Prichett
Veronica Rendulic
Noah Richards
Autumn Richardson
Andrew Rondeau
Shannon Ross
Rebecca Rossing
Christopher Ruge
Charlotte Rupright
Emily Sager
Dulce Sanchez-Pulido
Breanna Sand
Jeorge Sawyer
Mykhailo Sazhniev
Tetiana Sazhnieva
Kenneth Scheuner
Sara Schindler
Tekla Shaw
Savanna Simmerman
Charity Sisco
James Smith
Lydia Smith
Chelsea Spaulding
Anna Stout
Hunter Sullivan
Rilee Sullivan
Summer Sweet
Natasha Talvi
Nicole Tschida
Jiale Turner
Ashley Turner
Paul Vaona
Anastasia Vdovichenko
Caleb Wagle
Hannah Weber
Dennis Welburn
Kristin Wenger
Nigel West
Lynn Whitcomb
Michael Willis
Kurtis Witt
Jarred Yanez
Shea Yankus
Yumeko Ziegler

## DEAN'S LIST

Lucas Adams
Jeremy Agee
Eila Alatervo
Benjamin Almeida
Trinity Antill
Gunner Armstrong
Isaac Averill
Keith Averre Jr.
Cynthia Baker
Justin Baldwin
Natalie Barbosa
Gregory Barron
Juvenal Barry
Rachel Bartlemus
Andrew Bashor
Jon Battiest
Madison Beal
Leah Beauvais
Tylin Beeler
Brenna Bellah
Michael Benson
Olga Berezyuk
Tori Best
Aidan Blessing
Erik Bohlen-Murphy
Eloise Bonck
Stephanie Boyle
Autumn Boyter
Eldridge Bradley
Terry Bramer II
Ashleigh Bransky
Jessica Brevard
Lia Brooks
Ashley Brothers
Robert Bullock III
Mesa Burgstahler
Alyssa Bushey
Jordan Campbell
Jaime Carle
Sarah Carlson
Rachel Carpenter
Tina Carrier
Misty Caulkins
Makai Chapman
Angelina Coleman
Daniel Coombs Jr.
Willie Copeland III
Veronica Couch
Alla Damyan
Sean Deal
Breann Denton
McKenna Dinkel
Casey Dschaak
Rene Eliste
Cy Eller
Isabella Fajardo
Logan Farrar
Vincent Feuilles
Kiara Fleckenstein
Sommer Florian
Renae Foisy
Derek French
Dawn Gonzalez
Kennedie Goulding
Naomi Gourdin
Colleen Haan
David Haines
Timothy Hayes
Krisgerry Heckel
Caroline Henn
Nathaniel Henney
David Hicks
Dominique Hinds
Hannah Holtz
Donald Ingram
Allie Jarvis
Carrie Jelle
Payton Johnson
Jered Kemp
Janice Kim
Paige Kindhart
Clinton Kirkman
Inna Kolomeychuk
Angeli Kristovich
Miles Laughlin
Isabel Leath
Jamison Lednum
Angel Libby
Brandy Lokke
Michele Lott
Lauren Luchsinger
Marcus Lupie
Gregory Lytle
Richard Martin
Shalem Mathew
Molly Mayer
Emma Meaders
Autumn Merrill
Nicole Merrill
Kynsey Miller
Dawson Miller
Daniel Miller
Cody Milner
Nathan Mitchell
Brooke Moore
Jasmine Moyer
Hannah Murkin
Gregory Naatz
Andrew Natekin
David Northcut
Presleigh Olsen
Gunter Pancake
Chelsy Passmore
Rio Morgan Patrimonio Raval
Jordan Perrego
Alexis Peterson
Mazie Purdue
Ryan Raben
Victoria Rahm
Makenna Rahm
Yekaterina Rakhmanova
Mitchell Roberts
Renee Romer
Carrie Root
Jody Rossing
Kendall Ruble
Tana Russell
Daniel Ryan
Taylor Ryan
Hannah Schaefer
Vienna Schmitter-Schrier
Marina Scholl
Steven Schuler
Harlan Senungetuk
Ronald Sheldon
Anastasia Shugak
Mykel Siegrist
Whitney Simpson
Kimberly Sliwa
Timothy Smith
Sean Smith
Sierra Smith-Sandland
Kirstie Starr-Watson
Landyn Steele
Codi Stephenson
Tessa Sterner
Joshua Taylor
James Teat
Kylie Thornlow
Ellis Tomaganuk
Jared Travis
Serita Unin
Taya VanBlaricum
Eric Waite
Allen Wake
Halen Wells
Alana Wheaton
Alexander Wheeler
Trent White
Scott Wolf
Grace Wyatt
McKenna Young
Catherine Zagyva
Iosi Zugg

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

# RESUME & COVER LETTER

OPEN WRITING LAB

*Did you know, you have about **6 seconds** to impress a hiring manager or recruiter? In **6 seconds**, your resume will either move forward or be rejected.*

*FIRST THURSDAY AND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH*

| | THURS | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|
| MARCH | 5<br>1 PM TO 4PM | 6<br>9 AM TO 12 PM |
| APRIL | 2<br>1 PM TO 4PM | 3<br>9 AM TO 12 PM |

Join the Career Development Advisor to work on your resume and or cover letter, and receive feedback.

Bring in a current job announcement to tailor your documents to the job application.

Students will have access to a computer and printer. Must have user name and password along with your Student ID (Wolfcard) for printing.

**LOCATION: FSM 104**

**For more information contact:**
**MSC Student Services Career Development**
**907.745.9746**

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual.

## Elizabeth J Fallon Learning Center

OLB 121 — 745-9772

https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center/

**WRITING TUTORS**
Monday & Wednesday: 8:30 - 5:00
Tuesday: 8:30 - 2:30
Thursday: 1:00 - 2:30

**MATH TUTORS**
Monday & Tuesday: 8:30 - 5:00
Wednesday: 8:30 - 3:00
Thursday: 09:00 - 3:00
Friday: 10:00 - 2:00

**ASL TUTOR**
Wednesday: 3:00 - 5:00

**Tutors available in JKB 107 to April 29. Tutoring is reserved for students enrolled in Mat-Su College courses.**

### Online tutoring options

- **tutor.com/Live Home Work Help**: the Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Help service to all Alaska residents. Free, online tutors are available from 12 PM to 2 AM to help with many subjects. Visit http://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework
- **Khan Academy**: Khan Academy has free explanatory videos on math, science, economics, history, and more. https://www.khanacademy.org/
- **Purdue OWL:** Purdue's Online Writing lab has sample papers and guides to APA and MLA styles. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/

**Mat-Su Job Center** presents ...

# 2020 Mat-Su Employer Expo!

Jobs
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
A proud partner of the americanjobcenter network
We are an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

**EMPLOYERS (Note: there are no booth fees)**

- A table at the Employer Expo presents an ideal opportunity to fill your vacancies while providing valuable exposure for your company
- The Employer Expo attracts hundreds of quality job seekers with broad qualifications

**SPONSORSHIP**

**Sponsorship of the Employer Expo offers many advantages**

- Increased name recognition
- Improve your business image
- Realize pride in supporting a no-fee event that helps fuel and sustain our local economy

***This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to meet potential employees and to educate local jobseekers on what you are looking for in an employee and how to apply with your company.***

## 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
## Wednesday, March 11, 2020

**Mat-Su College,** 8295 E. College Drive, Palmer

UAA
National Coalition NCBI Building Institute INTERNATIONAL
NCBI
Welcoming diversity and building an environment in which everyone wants to belong.

Open to all UAA students, faculty, and staff, this award-winning program consists of a series of incremental activities that helps participants celebrate similarities and differences, recognize misinformation, learn hands-on tools for dealing effectively with offensive remarks and behaviors, and so much more!

## JOIN NCBI FOR A WORKSHOP!

FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2020
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
MAT-SU COLLEGE - FSM 204
REGISTER AT UAA.ALASKA.EDU/NCBI

AMAZING STORIES

# Murder in the Valley

***By Ripkin Spiffmore***

I thought I was going to write something positive as my opening story for my last semester at the Monitor, but something has been really getting under my skin lately: murder. Fear not, it was not me or even someone that I knew personally. It was a total stranger, someone whose face I was first introduced to by their funeral program. Despite the impersonal greeting I have still felt the ripples.

By happenstance there was a connection to a recent triple homicide in our own backyard. KGB, Knik-Goose Bay Road, a road most agree that deserves an upgrade, has recently seen its fair share of death without even counting traffic accidents. This leaves me wondering why we don't care about murder anymore? 65 unsolved murders in the fall of 2019 between Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley. Yet how many do you know about? Probably more than you think.

The effects of violence have far-reaching impacts on how we live and breathe. The out-of-sight, out-of-mind mentality is leading to a general apathy and no solutions. Violence of any kind from and against our own community is too much. Unfortunately, it seems to be becoming the norm. It barely took three deaths in the fictional town of Derry to prompt 2 movies.

It seems to me that if I am personally aware of more than three murders in my area, by just reading news other than this, then I should be saying something. I mean, in every horror movie that I have ever seen, when 2 white folks get taken out the whole community comes out. Yet 5 people are gangland killed in the same neighborhood within a month, it doesn't make the headlines. Two humans are burned to death in their own vehicles within city limits; doesn't make it above the fold. Alaska continues to lead the nation in domestic violence, sexual abuse, and the highest rate of missing indigenous woman. I doubt this will make headlines either. But God bless free press.

Murder has many ripples outside of thoughts and prayers, beyond those that lose mothers or fathers, brothers or sisters. The fact that we have over 11 unsolved murders in the Palmer/Wasilla area should raise concern. Yet it does not, for the most part it is the same old narrative, "junkies killing junkies," that keeps it swept under the rug. But those "junkies," those "druggies," did not start that way, nor should they end that way. All 11 of the people murdered this fall were someone's brother, sister, mother, father, friend, homie, or pal.

Does being a junkie (not my description) earn you a life sentence? Does the fact that you were murdered while being on drugs make your investigation any less valued than those that weren't? Since I am not actively involved in any ongoing investigations, I am obligated to answer no, though if I was employed by Matanuska-Susitna law enforcement I would probably say yes, yes it does, and we will not tax our already overtaxed force to investigate such nonsense. But I do not trust the man that much. And just look at the Fairbanks Four.

At this point we are rivaling the mega-city crime rates of Judge Dredd without the expedient process of the all in one. You don't have to be a math major to see the writing on the wall. Grow up, sheepeople -- do you really want to go first against the wall? I always feel four modulations away from the core of my argument, but whatever Joe, what do you know, you ruined it again.

What's your chance of getting murdered? Who cares, the fact that someone in our community is perfectly capable of offing you, without so much as a blink of an eye, should raise your hackles. The fact that a murder was yet to be named as such should give you the creeps like old school Robert Stack's Unsolved Mysteries. An arrest was made but it was the wrong one. That dude is walking free-ish. Other charges -- out of state. Gulp, best lock the doors then.

# All My Chips Are In!

***By A.J. Crowley***

This Borderlands 3 DLC campaign starts off a little bumpy, but once it goes all in, it hits the jackpot.

Nothing quite says winter break like a casino heist, amirite? The elaborate plans, finding the perfect crew with the right talents, and even the occasional side mission like destroying highly explosive hot sauces. Did you think I meant an actual casino? I meant the new DLC for Borderlands 3… guess I should have opened with that.

Moxxi's Heist of the Handsome Jackpot came out on Dec. 19th and it was the content that fans craved. As you could have guessed from the title, this DLC is focused around Mad Moxxi's plan to take back the late Handsome Jacks' casino. Don't get me wrong: I like Borderlands 3, but we've had a less than ideal relationship since launch. After waiting seven years I found it difficult to focus on it once I started playing. It just felt too much like the previous games. But after playing Moxxi's Heist of the Handsome Jackpot, I felt that fresh excitement again. As a long-time fan of the Borderlands series I was surprised and somewhat thrilled about the return of Handsome Jack.

Without delving into the bog of spoilers, Handsome Jack's visage is everywhere in this DLC even though he's canonically been dead for seven years (the space between Borderlands 2 and Borderlands 3). But with the DLC being set on Jacks over the top space casino, I wouldn't have expected anything less than an overabundance of narcissism. This DLC also explores the past of a beloved character who was believed to be dead. Here's a hint; his name rhymes with Jimothy.

As the name suggests, Moxxi the titular bartender is putting together a crew to pull of the heist. Its ownership has been in limbo since Jack died, and while Moxxi has rightful claim, a new villain named Pretty Boy stands in her way. To infiltrate the casino compound you first have to round up the right people for the job: there's Ember, a former exotic dancer obsessed with fire and its many useful properties; Freddie, an out-of-touch computer hacker with a sick mullet and equally sick fashion sense; and Handsome Jack's former personal tailor and current mayor of a pseudo-Marxist collective living in the trash dump beneath the casino.

While the story itself isn't great, it's incredibly fun and has some very solid jokes. The inherent ridiculousness of Borderlands and the premise of a 1980s style heist movie make this a DLC that breathes life into the game after some lackluster seasonal events. The story itself took me around 10 hours to complete, including the side quests and crew challenges. This DLC included lots of backtracking and exploration of the different maps. So, while I generally liked playing the DLC and cannot wait to dive into it in True Vault Hunter mode, it took some time to get off the ground… but once it did it soared like an eagle piloting a blimp.

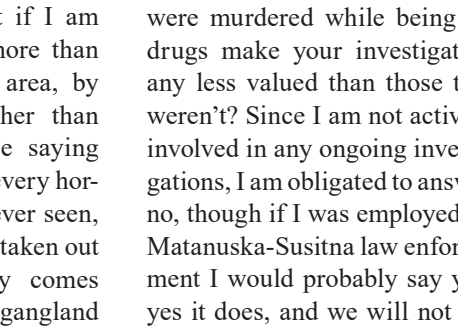
My all-time favorite goof from the game happened when I approached a desk with a Casino Bot but had to ring the service bell at the adjacent desk to get the bot's attention. The bot then directed me to the other desk, where it had just been, because I was paging the wrong department. So, I walked over to the desk I had originally visited and rang the bell there, and the bot floated back to where we started to help me. The bot instructed me to go to a door down some stairs to complete a minor objective… which I did, only to have another bot instruct me to go back to the desk and speak to the customer service bot again.

While Borderlands 3: Moxxi's Heist of the Handsome Jackpot takes a while not only to write but to hit its stride, when it does it hits like a sick beat drop. Any hard feelings I had about the opening of the DLC faded away once it hits its groove and I found myself falling in love with Borderlands all over again.

**Books** *continued from page 1*

Here is a list of some of the places these books have already gone to.

- Animal Shelter has taken 3 boxes.
- The Alaska Workers Association in Anchorage has taken 3 boxes.
- The Farm School has taken 10 boxes.
- The Mouse Trap day care has taken 10 boxes.
- Fireside Books are interested in a partnership.




As you can see from the amount of books already donated, this is a huge endeavor. Any help will be appreciated. The Bright Lights Book Project is scheduled to open to the public in the middle of February. I even heard hopefully on Valentine's day.
In addition, they are currently working on a database with a list of distribution sites.
They need volunteers to clean books. Project coordinator Alys Culhane is asking volunteers to contact her on Thursday or Saturday afternoon at 745-5544.
This story is part one of a three-part series.

**Youtube** *continued from page 1*

YouTube's "recommended" section does have its moments sometimes.

Some time ago I was watching some scam-baiting videos from a channel by the name of "Hoax Hotel." His entire channel is based on baiting scammers into wasting time on an unassuming victim. I enjoy his content not only because it is funny, but also for information on what kind of scams are currently circulating. That way, I'll know how to respond when a Nigerian prince calls asking for my help to transfer 10 million dollars to an offshore account, and I get a cut in the process! While I was viewing Hoax Hotel one day, I noticed a channel in the recommended tab; a channel called "Atomic Shrimp." The name alone was enough to pique my interest, so I gave it a look. I could not have picked a better choice.

Upon discovering the "Atomic Shrimp" channel, I was greeted by a guy with a pleasant English accent. Not in a pompous way, but more of a National Geographic documentary sort of way. He has a slew of scam-baiting videos similar to Hoax Hotel. Atomic Shrimp is clever man, and he specializes in trolling mostly email based scammers. He covers things from advance fee scams to money flip scams. However, I discovered that this is not the only type of content on his channel. Atomic Shrimp also has videos covering things like the kinds of shells you'd find on the beaches of England, or foraging for food in the forests.

In my opinion, the crown jewel of his channel is the series he does called "Weird stuff in a Can." As a result of this series, I discovered things I had no idea were canned. There are things ranging from canned hamburgers with buns to sea urchin pate. My favorite video in the series to date is definitely the video on canned lasagna and canned bread. In his typical fashion, he read off the name of the product and the company, which is called Conserva DE. After opening the can, the lasagne gave a somewhat unappetizing appearance. However, cutting into the cylinder log of lasagna, it contained what one might expect from a normal lasagna. After heating it up, Atomic Shrimp found it to be actually quite pleasant. The bread was much the same way. It came in a cylinder shaped loaf, with hard exterior. Cutting into the bread revealed a sweet, almost malty aroma. After toasting, it seemed just like normal bread. Keep in mind that both of these were canned to be shelf stable for about a decade.

If anything of what I've said piques your interest, feel free to take a look at the YouTube channel Atomic Shrimp. He has a diverse range of topics, perhaps you'll learn about something new. If you have any comments or questions, feel free to submit them to my university email at swoquinn@alaska.edu. Now, go and buy a can of lasagna and give it a shot!

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